

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W  
----- 102987

R 141314Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8671  
USIA WASHDC  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 499

STATE FOR EUR/SOV, CU/EE, CU/ARTS; USIA FOR IEU;  
LENINGRAD FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, UR, US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE REVIEW TALKS: FOLLOW -UP

1. P&C COUNSELOR CALLED AT MFA CULT DIV (CHURLIN, AZAROV) JANUARY TWELVE, ACCOMPANIED BY CAO AND IO, TO REVIEW STATUS OF CULTURAL PROGRAMS FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TALKS, PRIOR TO APRIL ONE EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS FOR 1977-79 PROGRAM. BENSON NOTED EXCHANGE TALKS ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN EXCELLENT AND GENUINE, AND THAT CURRENT PROGRAMS IN GENERAL WERE WORKING WELL. HE POINTED OUT RESOLUTION OF EXIT VISA QUESTION WOULD HAVE HIGHLY VISIBLE, FAVORABLE IMPACT AND ENCOURAGED SOVIETS TO RESOLVE THIS DIFFICULTY. IN BRIEF, ITEMS REVIEWED WERE: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS --AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED; PERFORMING ARTS --PROBLEMS WITH GOSKONTSERT WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THEM, BUT IF NOT RESOLUTION WILL HAVE TO ASK MINISTRY'S HELP; UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY EXCHANGES ARE TO BE ENCOURAGED BY BOTH SIDES AND UNIVERSITIES THEMSELVES SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE; BICENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY AMBASSADOR AND OTHERS AND WE HOPE FOR REPLY SOON BECAUSE TIME NEEDED FOR PREPARATIONS.

2. ON EXHIBITS, BENSON RAISED SOVIET PLAN FOR 1977

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NATIONAL EXHIBITION AND SAID FULL DESCRIPTION NEEDED

WELL IN ADVANCE, AS LACK OF SAME HAD CAUSED DIFFICULTIES WITH CURRENT SIBERIAN EXHIBIT AT SMITHSONIAN. U.S. PLAN FOR BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT, BECAUSE SOVIET APPROVAL ONLY RECENTLY HAD BEEN RECEIVED, NOW ENVISAGED OCTOBER SET-UP, LATE OCTOBER OPENING, AND TWO WEEKS IN DECEMBER FOR TAKE-DOWN. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAD SAID SOKOLNIKI LOCATION MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE THESE DATES BUT VDNK POSSIBILITY WOULD BE EXPLORED. MFA WAS REQUESTED TO PRESS CHAMBER FOR QUICK REPLY. ON PHOTOGRAPHY USA, TEMPORARY IMPASSE HAS DEVELOPED OVER HOW TO PLAN SIX-CITY ITINERARY, WITH THREE UNDER CURRENT CULTURAL AGREEMENT PROGRAM AND THREE UNDER 1977-79 PROGRAM NOT YET NEGOTIATED. CONTINGENCY CLAUSE SUGGESTED, ASSUMING NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED IN DUE COURSE. MFA ENDORSEMENT NEEDED FOR LOCAL AGENCIES TO GO AHEAD WITH EXHIBIT NEGOTIATIONS.

3. CHURLIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS BRIEF REVIEW AND FOR MANNER IN WHICH SOVIET DELEGATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN US. HE CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS USEFUL FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AREAS. HE ENCOURAGED EMBASSY TO PROCEED IN DISCUSSING WORKING-LEVEL DETAILS WITH MHE AND OTHER MINISTRIES AND SAID IT WAS USEFUL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROGRAMS BEFORE APRIL ONE EXCHANGE OF DRAFTS.

4. ON FILM FESTIVAL, MFA IS TALKING WITH RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND WILL REPLY IN NEAR FUTURE. REGARDING BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT, MFA HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE; TECHNICAL ISSUES ARE TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND CHAMBER. HE WILL TALK WITH ORGANESYAN BUT BELIEVES IT WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM FIND ADEQUATE SITE IN MOSCOW. FOR PHOTOGRAPHY USA, THREE SHOWINGS ARE AGREED TO AND SPECIFICS CITIES ARE NOW BEING DISCUSSED WITH RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS, SINCE MFA ALONE CANNOT MAKE DECISION. CHURLIN NOTED US HAD RAISED QUESTION OF SITE SURVEYS AND OBSERVED US EXPERT HAD APPLIED FOR VISA TO ONLY THREE CITIES AT SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON. IN RESPONSE TO BENSON'S COMMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS OF CONDITIONS FOR ALL SIX CITIES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN VARIOUS MEETINGS WITH MFA AND

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REFERRED TO IN ORIGINAL AIDE-MEMOIRE ON "PHOTOGRAPHY-USA", CHURLIN SUGGESTED A SEPARATE AIDE-MEMOIRE BE SUBMITTED DETAILING US PROPOSAL. (THIS DONE JAN 14) POUCHING COPY TO USIA. SEE ALSO SEPTEL ON JANUARY THIRTEEN CALL ON ORGANESYAN).

5. REVIEWING THE EMBASSY'S INVITATION TO THREE SMALL DELEGATIONS (THREE - FIVE PERSONS) UNDER IV PROGRAM,

CHURLIN SAID PARTY LEADER AND TRANSLATOR PROPOSALS NOW  
BEING DISCUSSED, BUT LIMITATION ON REPUBLIC CULTURAL  
MINISTERS DELEGATION MAKES IT COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT.  
CHURLIN SAID HE WAS UNCLEAR ON JUSTIFICATION FOR THE LIMITATION  
BENSON REFERRED TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS  
QUESTION AT EXCHANGE TALKS IN WASHINGTON.  
CHURLIN REPLIED THAT IF US RETAINS THIS  
RESTRICTION THEY MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY RESPONDING TO  
INVITATION SEND CULTURAL MINISTERS.

6. IN CONCLUSION CHURLIN MENTIONED INVITATION RECEIVED  
BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO PARTICIPATE IN OKLAHOMA STATE  
FAIR BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT "OKLAHOMA 1976", SEPTEMBER 24-  
OCTOBER 3. FREE SPACE (150 METERS) WOULD BE PROVIDED  
AT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PAVILION. SOVIETS  
INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING BUT REQUEST STATE  
DEPT. CONCURRENCE. AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY MAY TAKE  
PART. PLEASE ADVISE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION CU  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** mendozsm  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by mendozsm>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXCHANGE REVIEW TALKS: FOLLOW -UP  
**TAGS:** OEXC, SCUL, OCON, UR, US  
**To:** STATE USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006